

August 24, 2025 Session 13
God's Righteousness Psalm 5:1-12

Intro: Psalm 5 is a particular kind of lament known as an imprecatory psalm. Imprecatory psalms ask God to inflict judgment, calamity, or curses upon one's enemies or those perceived to be the enemies of God. The psalm expresses emotions and experiences everyone faces at certain points in their lives. God knows about them before they happen, and voicing them to our heavenly Father helps us. Like we listened to our wounded sons or daughters, God hears and listens to us. It is alright to complain with the understanding that we continue to be obedient to God, and leave matters of and judgment in the hands of God. **Philippians 2:8** *"And being found in appearance as a man, He [Jesus] humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."*

The Source of Righteousness (Psalm 5:1-6) p. 115

David suffered considerable anguish because of his adversaries. Give ear to my words, consider my meditation. Oh God, hear my cry, my King and my God. David knew he was under the Lord's authority. God alone is sovereign over all earthly affairs. "I pray to You." Prayer is not primarily a list of requests. God is a Person, and prayer is a conversation with God. Don't you love to talk with God? Do you wake up to His presence, and anticipate serving Him? "You hear my morning cry. I look up to You from the depths of my suffering. God help me!" Out of all the things we could do to deal with problems, the first thing we should do is take them to the Lord in prayer. **Mark 11:24** *"Therefore I [Jesus] say to you, whatever things [that are of God] you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."* Why do we ask God to hear us when we know He can?

Vs. 4 The foundation of David's petition was the character of God. God is a good and loving God who cannot tolerate any form of malevolence. The Lord hates evil and is opposed to the wicked. The boasting of the wicked reveals that they are full of pride.

Vs. 5 The boastful cannot stand before the Lord, and God will take them down. **Proverbs 15:25** *"The Lord will destroy the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the widow."* **Jeremiah 9:23-24** *"Thus says the LORD: Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this: That he understands and knows Me. That I am the*

LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight, says the LORD."

God is not neutral toward evil and takes sin and evil seriously even to the point of sending His only begotten Son to pay for my/all sin by His suffering and death. By this loving act, we can draw near to God and have a relationship with Him. David pointed out that God will destroy those who tell lies. I am not a "good" liar because I can't remember what I said, and the truth is easier to remember. Praise God! The Lord hates lying lips, and a lying tongue. Do violent, treacherous people exist today? These are people who wrongfully cause the death of the innocent by giving false testimony or those who fraudulently take advantage of others by dishonest gain. Have you ever been the victim of a scam? David's situation was desperate, and he was fighting for his throne against enemies who were attempting to oust him and replace him illegitimately. The contents of this psalm fit Absalom's attempt to seize David's throne.

The Benefit of Righteousness (Psalm 5:7-10) p. 117

David acknowledged the truth that God accepted him because of the abundance of His faithful love. God's mercy has always been the way in which people have had and still have access to God. Christians are declared righteous before God forever when He exchanges our sin for Christ's perfect righteousness, which He credits to us permanently, referred to as justification by faith. When we know of the Lord's undeserved mercy, goodness, kindness, graciousness, compassion, and loyalty to people, the only response is reverential awe.

Vs. 8 "LORD lead me in Your righteousness ... make Your way straight before me." God always acts in accordance with what is right, and because He is omnipotent, He has the power to always carry out what is right. David prayed both that God would guide him in His righteousness and protect him from his adversaries. David desired to live righteously. Proper worship of God will always be accompanied by obedience. David recognized he needed the Lord to lead him. In the face of adversity, people are prone to lose their way. Sometimes life seems like walking through a mine field, and we need God to show us the way through. We need to trust in God's guidance, to know what is right and to do what is right, at the right time and in the right way.

Vs. 9 Do you have enemies? What are our enemies today? For some it might be disease, an employer, the government, or even a family member.

Our common enemy is Satan. David's enemies had "no faithfulness" in their mouths, destruction was in their thoughts and emotions. Jesus said in **Matthew 15:11** *"Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man."*

These enemies concealed their destructive intentions with words that falsely conveyed friendship and truth. Their throat was like an open grave." Yuck! David made three requests to God concerning his enemies: expose their guilt, let them be brought down by their own schemes, and drive them away. David made these requests to God because the enemies rebelled against God! All sin is against God, and **Romans 3:23** *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* David realized this truth. **Psalm 51:3-4** *"For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You [my God], You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight. That You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge."* As believers, we are to pray for our enemies and understand where they are coming from. People who oppose Christ and His Church are darkened in their understanding of the gospel. They are blinded by Satan from seeing. **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** *"But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age [Satan] has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. We need to share the gospel with others by our actions and our words."*

God's Blessing on the Righteousness (Psalm 5:11-12) p. 119

Everyone who loves the Lord can't help but rejoice, and shout for joy forever, and boast about how great is our God. To love the Lord's name is to love Him, as His name represents who He is. We, who love God, will praise Him for what He has done and make Him known to others. David recognized God's faithfulness to bless and protect those who take refuge in Him. God is our shelter and surrounds us like a shield. While we experience salvation in this life to a certain extent, the consummation of our salvation awaits Christ's return. God does not promise His people trouble-free lives. But He does promise to always be with and sustain us when we go through life's trials. God is who we should turn to first in times of trouble. God can use His church, fellow believers, or family to help, but God alone is our ultimate refuge. Our boast is in the Lord.

Vs. 12 David affirms his faith. A blessing is a potent way to invoke, distribute, or celebrate the well-being that comes from divine favor. Blessing is the enhancement of a life of fullness. " ... bless the righteous

one.” Righteousness refers to the right relationship and the right actions. Because the LORD, Yahweh, is righteous, which conforms to God’s moral character is right. To be obedient to God translates into living a moral life. God’s providence and protection is like a shield that surrounds His people. God’s shield is large and covers the entire body.

A soldier could get behind it for protection. **Ephesians 6:16** “...above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.” We can confide in our heavenly Father. He wants to have a relationship with us, and be involved in our lives. It is easier to deal with people who do wrong when we realize that they do not know Christ and are influenced by Satan and the world. It is far better to pray for them than to return evil.